

the United States troops, committed depredations upon the whites, bloody tragedies occurred, and the horrors of the Second Seminole War was chronicled through the land.

It was now that the young and daring warrior, Osceola, came into prominence. He had recently married the daughter of an Indian chief; but whose mother was the descendant of a fugitive slave. By slave-holding laws, the child follows the condition of the mother, and Osceola's wife was called an African slave. The young warrior, in company with his wife, visited the trading post of Fort King for the purpose of buying supplies. While there the young wife was seized and carried off in chains. Osceola became wild with grief and rage, and no Knight of cavalier days showed more valor than did this Spartan Indian in the attempts to recapture his wife. For this he was arrested by order of General Thompson and put in irons. With the cunning of the Indian, Osceola affected penitence and was released—but revenge was uppermost in his soul. The war might succeed or fail for all he cared—to avenge the capture of his wife was his every thought. For weeks he secreted himself; watching an opportunity to murder General Thompson and his friends. No influence could dissuade him from his bloody purpose. Discovering General Thompson and Lieutenant Smith taking a walk one day, Osceola, yelling the war cry, sprang like a mountain cat from his hiding place and murdered both men.

His work of vengeance was now complete, and almost as wild as a Scandinavian Saga was the fight he now gave our generals for nearly two years.

While Osceola lay in wait for General Thompson, plans were being completed which resulted in the Dade Massacre.

Hostilities around Fort King, the present site of Ocala, becoming severe, General Clinch ordered the troops under Major Dade, then stationed at Fort Brooke, (Tampa) to march to his assistance. Neither officers nor soldiers were acquainted with the route—and a negro guide was